# Virginia Department of Forensic Science Physical Evidence Recovery Kit (PERK) Tracking System

# Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services User's Manual



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DCLS User's Manual Introduction

#### Introduction

#### **PERK Tracking System Overview**

The PERK Tracking System was developed and implemented by the Virginia Department of Forensic Science (DFS) through a federal Sexual Assault Kit Initiative Grant obtained by the Virginia Office of the Attorney General.

The PERK Tracking System is a web-based application that can be accessed from any device that is connected to the internet. The status and location of PERKs are tracked using each PERK's unique PERK ID/Barcode #. No personal identifying information is entered into the system.

The System provides interfaces for four different user types: collection sites, law enforcement, anonymous kit storage facility (the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services or DCLS), and DFS. Dependent on their agency roles, users log actions in the system, such as the receipt of a kit, the collection of a kit, and the transfer of a kit to another agency. In order to access the system, users must be assigned a user ID and password by their Agency Site Administrator. Agencies can establish a new site administrator account by contacting the PERK Tracking System Coordinator at DFS.

#### **Victim Access**

Virginia's PERK Tracking System includes a Victim Portal, which allows a victim to use the System to view information regarding the status and location of his/her PERK.

Victims of anonymous PERKs (collected from victims of sexual assault who elect at the time of the examination not to report the offense to law enforcement) may access the System through the Victim Portal by entering their unique PERK ID/Barcode #, which should be provided to them at the time of examination. Victims who elect to report the offense to law enforcement will be required to enter a PIN, in addition to their kit's unique PERK ID/Barcode #, to access the System. The victim must obtain the PIN from the investigating law enforcement agency, which can use the Tracking System to generate a PIN for a victim, provided it has determined that victim access to the System will not interfere with the investigation or prosecution of the offense.

The Victim Portal also contains contact information for victim helplines and other victim resources.

#### **Opportunities for Data Collection**

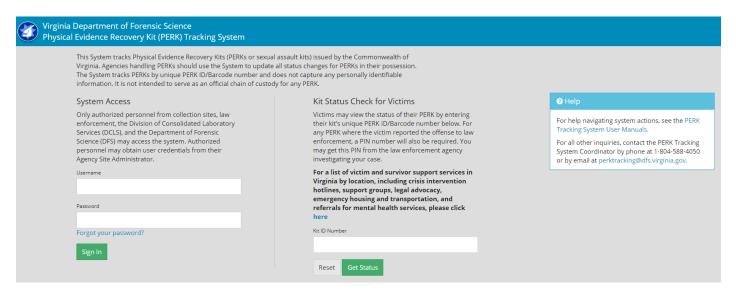
The PERK Tracking System will allow DFS to track data statewide on its use and agencies' compliance with the requirements of the comprehensive PERK legislation enacted in 2016.

User agencies will be able to access data on kits handled by their agency, including the status of kits currently in the agency's custody and a history of the actions performed on PERKs entered into the System by their agency.

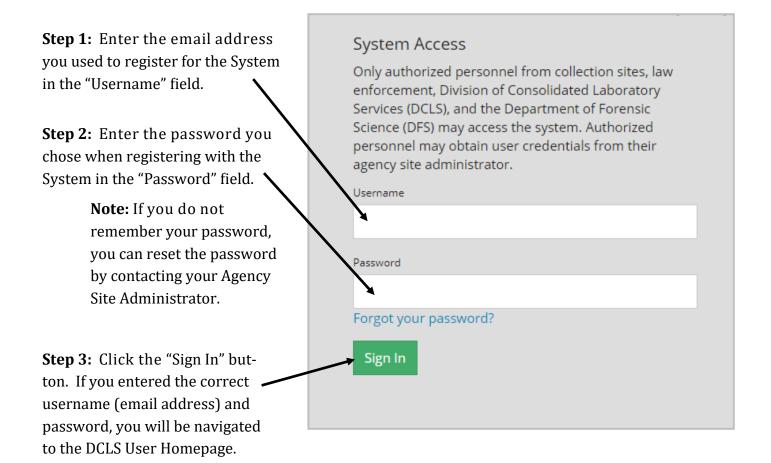
DCLS User's Manual Accessing the System

#### **Accessing the System**

Navigate to the PERK Tracking System login page at: <a href="https://perk.dfs.virginia.gov">https://perk.dfs.virginia.gov</a>



Prior to logging into the System, you must have obtained a username and password through your Agency Site Administrator. Once you have your username and password, you can log in on the PERK Tracking System login page.



DCLS User's Manual DCLS User Homepage

#### **DCLS User Homepage**



#### Update PERK Status Panel

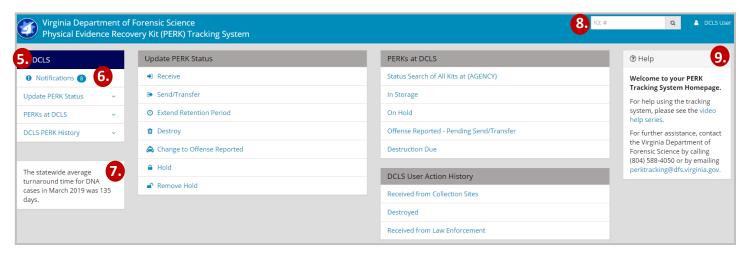
- Contains the primary actions that a DCLS User will perform.
- Clicking on an action link (e.g., Receive, Send/Transfer, Extend Retention Period, Destroy, Change to
  Offense Reported, Hold, Remove Hold) will navigate to a screen that will allow the User to log
  the action in the System.

#### 2. PERKs at DCLS Panel

- Contains data searches by kit status for PERKs that are currently in the Agency's possession.
- Clicking on a link (e.g., Status Search of All Kits at DCLS, In Storage, On Hold, Offense Reported
   Pending Send/Transfer, Destruction Due) will navigate to a screen that shows all kits in the Agency's possession that fit that criteria.
- **Status Search of All Kits at DCLS** can be refined by the user by clicking the "toggle criteria" button.

#### 3. DCLS User Action History Panel

- Contain data searches for actions that the Agency has performed on a kit.
- Clicking on a link (e.g., Received from Collection Sites, Destroyed, Received from Law
   Enforcement) will navigate to a screen that shows all kits handled by the Agency that fit that criteria.
- These kit searches display results for kits that were ever in the Agency's possession.



#### 5. Side Bar Panel

- Contains links to all kit actions and data searches for faster navigation between pages.
- Clicking on the Agency home button at the top of the Side Bar Panel will take the User to the User Agency Homepage.

#### 6. Notifications

- Contains lists of notifications for the User Agency.
- Shows actions performed by other agencies that affect the User Agency and kits requiring action by the User Agency (e.g., kits that were sent by a Collection Site User that need to be received and kits that are past their Destruction Due Date).
- The number of outstanding notifications will display to the right of the word "Notifications" on the Side Bar Panel.

#### 7 DNA Turnaround Time

• The statewide average Turnaround Time for DNA cases at the Department of Forensic Science is displayed and will be updated monthly.

#### 8. Search Box

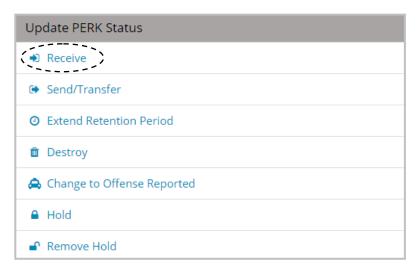
 Allows users to search the System by PERK ID/Barcode # for information about any kit (e.g., Kit Status, Kit History, Destruction Due Date) that has ever been in the Agency's possession.

#### 9. Help Box

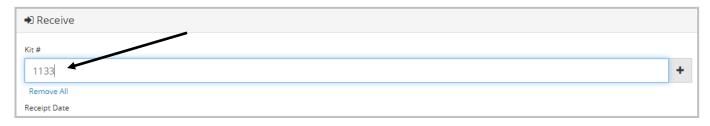
- Links to a PDF of the User Manual and provides contact information for the PERK Tracking System Help Desk.
- Every action page of the Tracking System has a Help Box that links to help information for that specific action.

#### **Logging the Receipt of PERKs**

To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Receive** link.



**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field. Multiple kits may be entered by scanning barcodes or, if typing, separating Kit #s with commas.



**Step 2:** Click the "+" button or hit the "Enter" key on keyboard. When using a barcode scanner programmed to add a carriage return (aka hard return) after each scan, this step is not necessary.



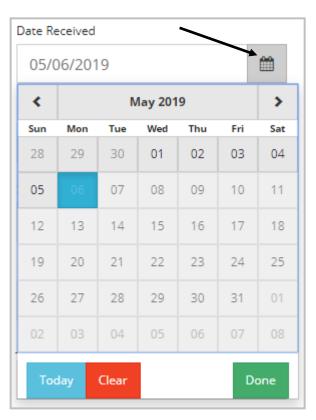
This action will cause the kit number(s) to populate beneath the "Kit #" field as shown below.



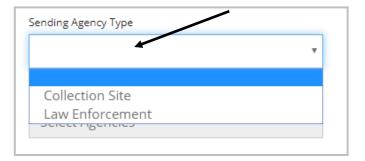
**Step 3:** Enter the date the kit was received in the "Date Received" field.



The "Date Received" field is auto-populated with the current date. If you are logging a kit received on a day in the past, you may enter the correct date by typing the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon button to select a date using the calendar.



**Step 4:** Select the agency type that sent or transferred the PERK to your agency using the "Sending Agency Type" field drop-down menu.



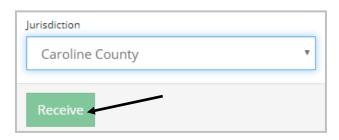
"Collection Site" refers to a hospital, medical facility or other health care provider that conducts forensic examinations to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault using PERKs.

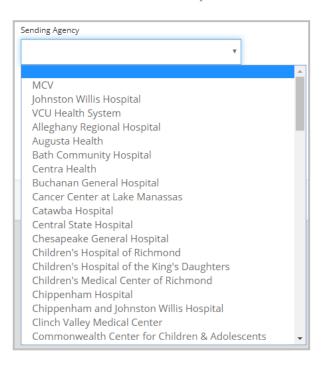
"Law Enforcement" refers to any law enforcement agency.

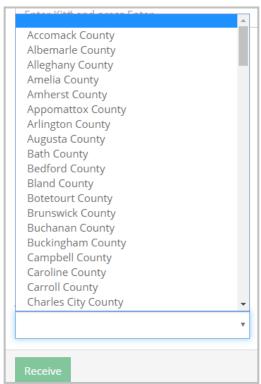
**Step 5:** Select the name of the agency that sent or transferred the kit(s) to your agency using the "Sending Agency" field drop-down menu.

**Step 6:** Select the jurisdiction where the sexual assault occurred using the "Jurisdiction" field drop-down menu.

**Step 7:** Click the "Receive" Button at the bottom of the screen.





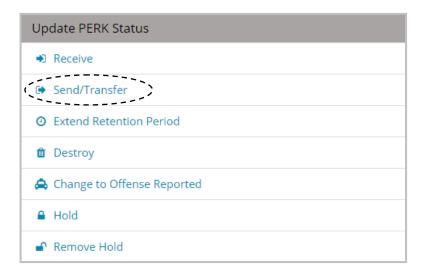


If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Receive" button.

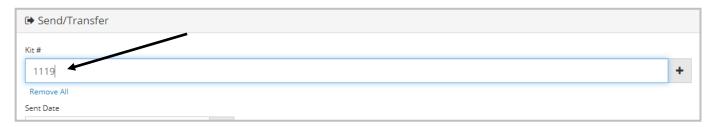


#### **Logging the Transfer of PERKs**

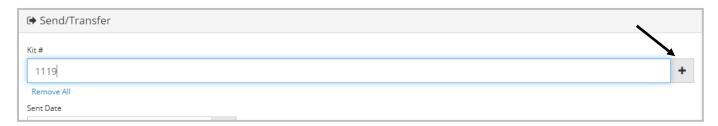
To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Send/Transfer** link.



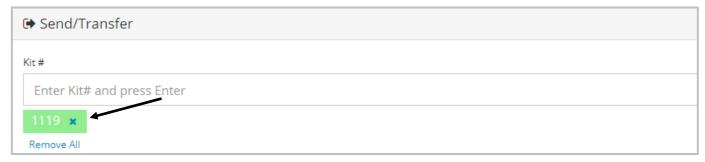
**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field. Multiple kits may be entered by scanning barcodes or, if typing, separating Kit #s with commas.



**Step 2:** Click the "+" button or hit the "Enter" key on keyboard. When using a barcode scanner programmed to add a carriage return (aka hard return) after each scan, this step is not necessary.



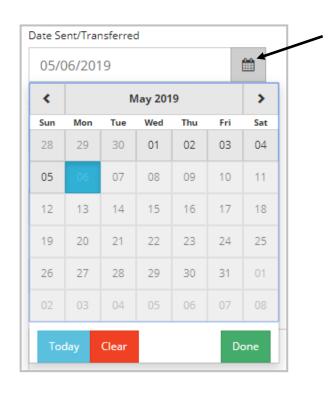
This action will cause the kit number(s) to populate beneath the Kit # field.



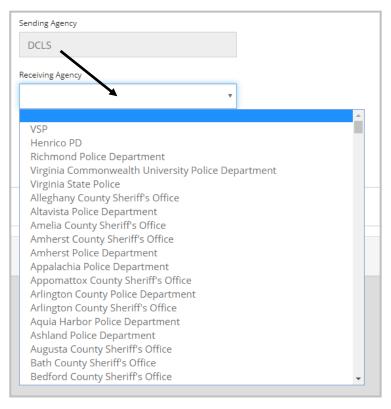
**Step 3:** Enter the date the kit was sent/transferred in the "Date Sent/Transferred" field.



The "Date Sent/Transferred" field is autopopulated with the current date. If you are logging a kit sent/transferred in the past, you may enter the correct date by typing the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon button to select a date using the calendar.



**Step 4:** Select the name of the agency that will receive the kit using the "Receiving Agency" field drop-down menu.



**Step 5 (optional):** If necessary, include additional information about the transfer of the kit in the "Reason Detail" field.



**Step 6:** Click the "Send/Transfer" Button at the bottom of the screen.

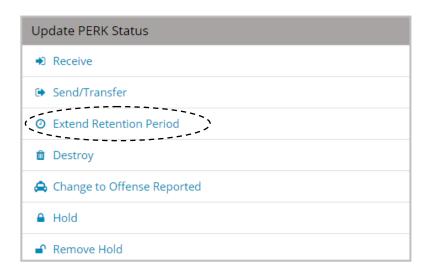


If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Send/Transfer" button.

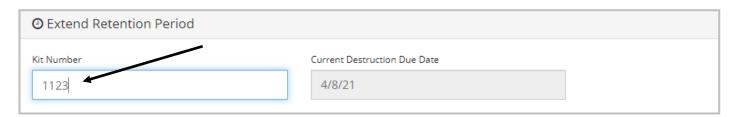


#### **Extending a PERK's Retention Period**

To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Extend Retention Period**link.



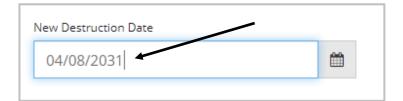
**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field.



Once the Kit # has been entered, the Current Destruction Due Date will populate in the "Current Destruction Due Date" field.



**Step 2:** Enter the new Destruction Due Date for the kit in the "New Destruction Date" field. The date should be 10 years from the original Destruction Due Date.

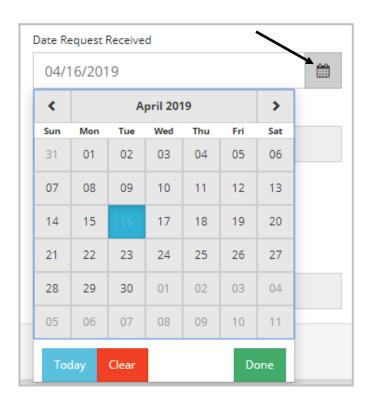


You may enter the New Destruction date by typing the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon button to select a date using the calendar.

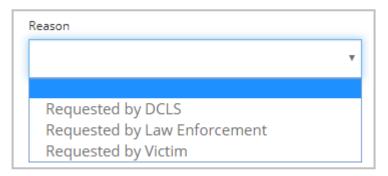
**Step 3:** Enter the date the written request for extension was received in the "Date Request Received" field.



You may enter the date the request was received by typing it into the field in MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon button to select a date using the calendar.



**Step 4:** Select the reason for the retention period extension (i.e. who requested the extension) using the "Reason" field drop-down menu.



**Step 5:** Click the "Extend Retention Period" Button at the bottom of the screen.

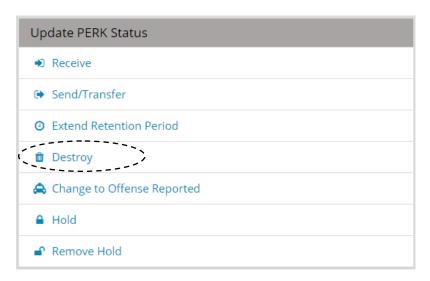
If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Extend Retention Period" button.

Extend Retention Period



#### **Logging the Destruction of a PERK**

To complete this action, navigate to the **Update Collected PERK Status** panel and click the **Destroy Kit** link.



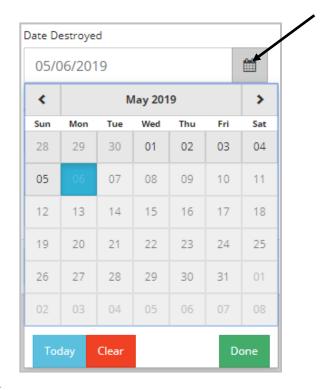
**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field.



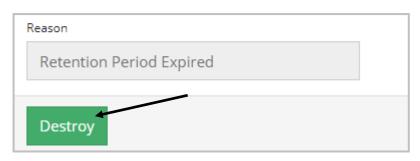
**Step 2:** Enter the date the kit was destroyed in the "Date Destroyed" field.



The "Date Destroyed" field is auto-populated with the current date. If you are logging a kit destroyed in the past, you may enter the correct date by typing the date in MM/DD/YYYY format or by clicking the calendar icon button to select a date using the calendar.



**Step 3:** Click the "Destroy" button at the bottom of the screen.

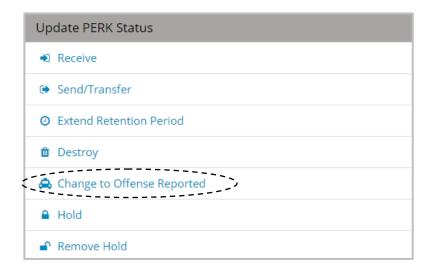


If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Destroy" button.



#### Changing the Status of an Anonymous PERK to Offense Reported

To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Change to Offense Reported** link.



**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field.



**Step 2:** Click the "Change to Offense Reported" Button at the bottom of the screen.

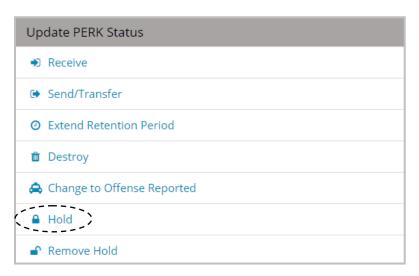


If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Change to Offense Reported" button.

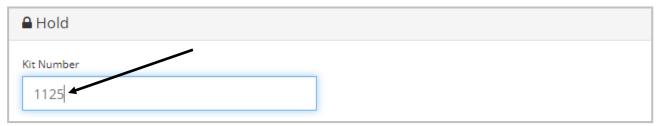


#### **Placing a PERK on Hold**

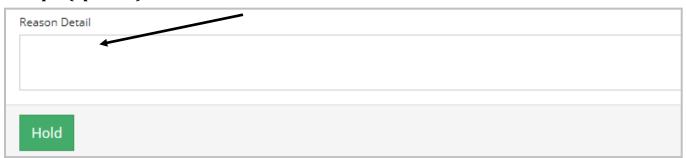
To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Hold Kit** link.



**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field.



**Step 2 (optional):** Enter notes about the hold in the "Reason Detail" field.



**Step 3:** Click the "Hold" button at the bottom of the screen.

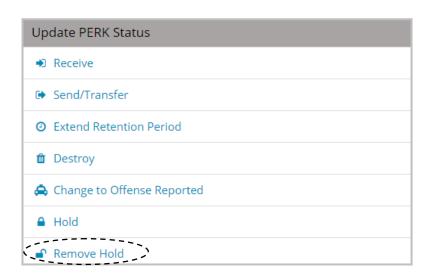


If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Hold" button.

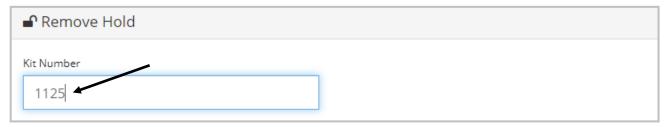


#### **Removing a PERK from Hold**

To complete this action, navigate to the **Update PERK Status** panel and click the **Remove Hold** link.



**Step 1:** Scan Kit Barcode or Type PERK ID # into the "Kit #" field.



Step 2 (optional): Enter notes about the hold removal in the "Reason Detail" field.



**Step 3:** Click the "Remove Hold" button at the bottom of the screen.



If the entry is successful, the word "Success!" will appear beneath the "Remove Hold" button.



DCLS User's Manual Notifications

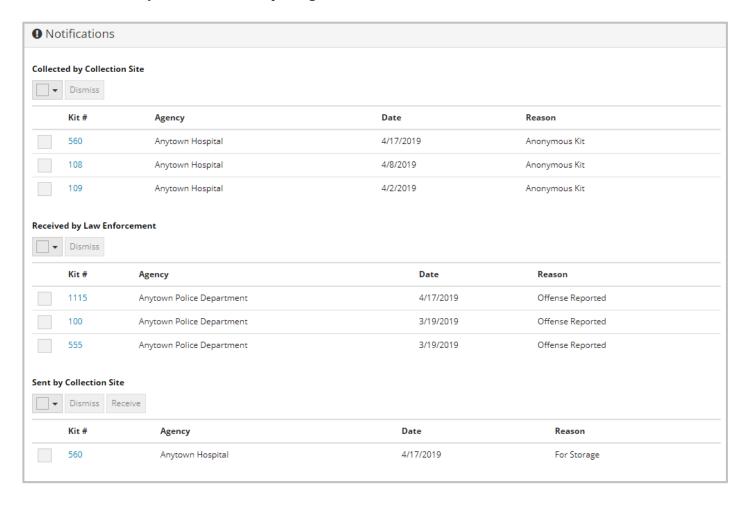
#### **Notifications**



A link to the User Agency's **Notifications** appears at the top of the **Side Bar Panel** to alert users of actions taken by another agency that impacts the User Agency and kits requiring action. The number of outstanding notifications will display next to the word "Notifications" on the **Side Bar Panel**.

On the **Notifications** List Screen, outstanding notifications will be populated in a list that is categorized by notification type.

The **Notifications** List Screen will display all outstanding notifications in lists by type of action generating the notification. There are two types of Notifications: 1) Notifications Requiring Dismissal; and 2) Notifications Requiring Action.



DCLS User's Manual Notifications

#### **Notifications Requiring Dismissal**

Notifications Requiring Dismissal refer to those Notifications that alert the User to actions taken by another Agency that affect the User Agency but do not require action by the User Agency.

Notifications Requiring Dismissal for the DCLS User include:

- **Collected by Collection Site:** A notification will appear for any anonymous kit collected at a collection site that has DCLS designated as the Receiving Agency.
- **Received by Another Agency:** A notification will appear for any kit that was sent/transferred by DCLS once it has been entered as received by the Receiving Agency.

<u>Dismissing Individually:</u> Notifications Requiring Dismissal can be dismissed one at a time by clicking a check box next to a specific Kit # and then clicking the gray "Dismiss" button above the list.



<u>Dismissing A Category of Notifications</u>: Notifications Requiring Dismissal can be dismissed in bulk by clicking the drop down check box above the notification list and then clicking "Select All." After doing so, all notifications in that list will be checked, and you can click the gray "Dismiss" button to dismiss all selected kits from that category.





DCLS User's Manual Notifications

#### **Notifications Requiring Action**

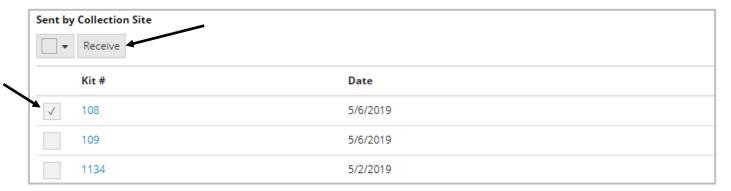
Notifications Requiring Action refer to those Notifications that alert the User to kits requiring action. These notifications can only be cleared by performing the relevant action on the kits.

Notifications Requiring Action for the DCLS User Include:

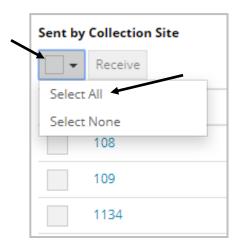
- **Past Destruction Due Date:** A notification will appear for any kit in DCLS possession that is past its destruction due date.
- **Sent by Another Agency:** A notification will appear for any kit that was sent/transferred to DCLS by a collection Site or law enforcement agency and needs to be received by DCLS.

<u>Performing an action Individually:</u> Perform an action on one kit at a time by clicking the check box next to a specific Kit # and then clicking the button that describes the action you would like to perform above the list.

This will bring you to the action page with the Kit # you selected auto-populated in the "Kit #" field.



<u>Performing an Action on all Kits in a Category:</u> An action may be performed on all kits in a given category by clicking the drop down check box above the notification list and then clicking "Select All." After doing so, all notifications in the list will be checked, and you can click the button that describes the action you would like to perform above the list. This will bring you to an action page with the kits you selected auto-populated in the "Kit # field." Some actions (e.g., Destroying Kits, Receiving Kits from different locations) cannot be performed on multiple kits at once.

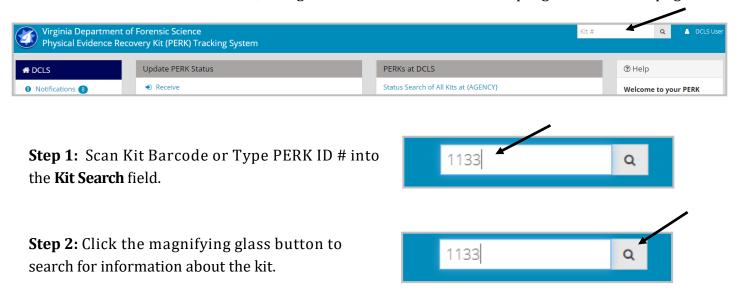




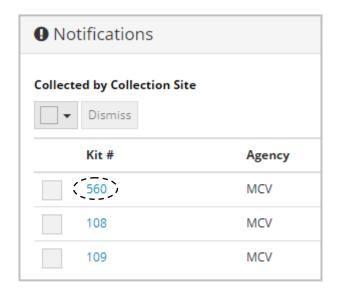
DCLS User's Manual Kit Information Screens

### Viewing a Kit's Information Screen

To view a **Kit Information Screen**, navigate to the **Kit Search** at the top right of the homepage.



You can also view a **Kit Information Screen** by clicking a blue kit number link on any List Screen (e.g., **Notifications**, **Status Search of All Kits**, **In Storage**).

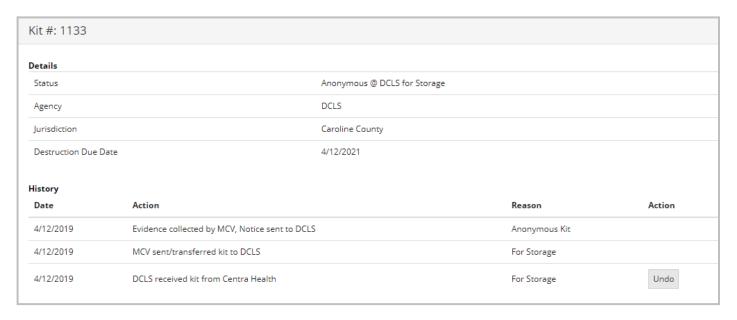


In Storage				
Kit # ^	Kit Status			
105	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
1127	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
1132	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
1133	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
123456	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
556	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			
88885	Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage			

DCLS User's Manual Kit Information Screens

#### **Undoing an Action**

Step 1: Navigate to the Kit Information Screen (see instructions on page 23).



**Step 2:** To undo the last action you performed on a kit, click the "Undo" button to the right of the last performed action in the Kit History.



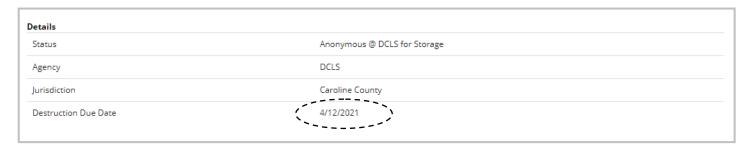
DCLS User's Manual Kit Information Screens

### **Viewing a Kit's Destruction Due Date**

**Step 1:** Navigate to the **Kit Information Screen** (see instructions on page 20).

Kit #: 1133				
Details				
Status		Anonymous @ DCLS for Storage		
Agency		DCLS		
Jurisdiction		Caroline County		
Destruction Due [	Date	4/12/2021		
History				
Date	Action		Reason	Action
4/12/2019	Evidence collected by MCV, Notice sent	Evidence collected by MCV, Notice sent to DCLS		
4/12/2019	MCV sent/transferred kit to DCLS		For Storage	

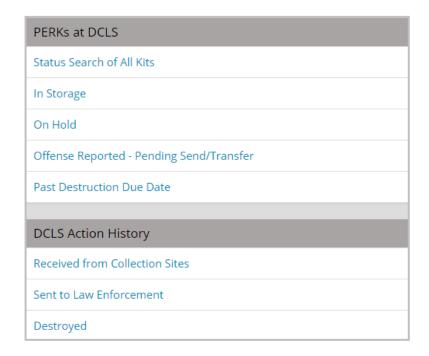
The Kit's Destruction Due Date will be listed next to "Destruction Due Date" under the "Details" section of the Kit Information Screen.



#### **User Data Search List Screens**

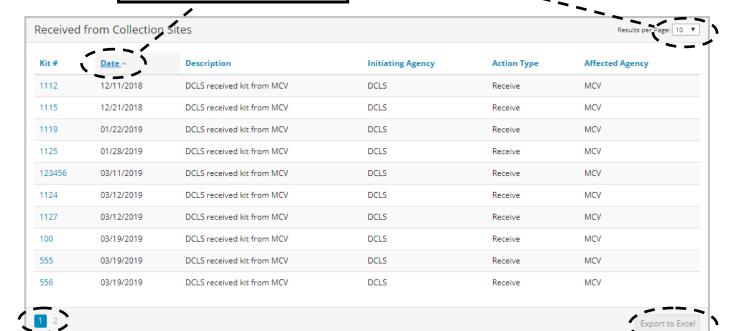
You can search your agency's kit data by the status of any kit in your agency's possession or by the history of actions your agency has performed on kits.

"PERKs at DCLS" list screens search by kit status of all kits in your possession while "DCLS PERK History" list screens search by the history of actions performed on kits by DCLS (including kits that are no longer in the possession of DCLS).



You can sort the information in the list by clicking any of the blue headers to sort items by that category.

Use this drop-down to select how many items you will see on each page.



Advance the page of data you are viewing by clicking these numbers. The number highlighted in blue is the page you are currently on.

Click the "Export to Excel" button to create a spreadsheet document of the data you are viewing that you can save to your computer.

DCLS User's Manual Glossary

#### **Glossary**

**Anonymous Kit:** A PERK collected from a victim of sexual assault who elects, at the time of the forensic examination, not to report the offense to law enforcement.

**Anonymous Storage:** The storage of an anonymous kit at the Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS), which is the agency required by law to store anonymous kits.

**Collected Kit:** A PERK that has been used to collect evidence from a victim of sexual assault during a forensic medical examination.

**Collection Site:** A hospital, medical facility or other health care provider that conducts forensic examinations to collect evidence from victims of sexual assault using PERKs.

**Destroy (a kit):** An action used to record the permanent disposal of a collected kit. There are statutory provisions addressing the retention periods for anonymous kits and those collected for reported offenses. Prior to destroying any kit, the User Agency's legal advisor should be consulted.

**Forensic Laboratory:** The Department of Forensic Science is the forensic laboratory that law enforcement agencies are required by law to submit PERKs to for analysis.

**Long-Term Storage:** The post-conviction storage of a PERK at the Department of Forensic Science pursuant to a court order for the storage, preservation, and retention of human biological evidence.

**New Kit:** A sealed kit that has not yet been used to collect evidence from a victim of sexual assault.

**Offense Reported Kit:** A PERK collected from a victim of sexual assault who elected to report the offense to law enforcement.

**Retention Period (anonymous kits):** The amount of time DCLS is required by law to retain anonymous PERKs.

**Remove (a kit):** An action used to record the removal of a new kit out of the User Agency's inventory of kits available for collecting evidence (e.g., a kit used for a demonstration, an incomplete kit that is missing components).

**Storage Facility:** The Division of Consolidated Laboratory Services (DCLS) is the agency required by law to store anonymous kits.

**Statutory Reason for Non-Submission:** Law enforcement agencies are required by law to submit PERKs to DFS for analysis within 60 days of receipt unless one of five statutory exemptions applies (e.g., anonymous kit, not connected to crime, out of state offense, routine death investigation, transfer of investigation).

# For System Support or Additional Information

Contact the PERK Tracking System Help Desk:

perktracking@dfs.virginia.gov (804) 588-4050